

Amendments to the Claims:

Following is a complete listing of the claims pending in the application, as amended:

3. (Currently Amended) A contact assembly for supplying electrical power to a microelectronic workpiece during electrochemical processing of the microelectronic workpiece, the contact assembly comprising:

a plurality of an electrical contacts arranged along a perimeter area of ~~for providing an electrically conductive connection between the contact assembly and the microelectronic workpiece, wherein individual electrical contacts include a first section located outside of the perimeter area of the workpiece and projecting generally downward, a second section projecting inwardly from the first section to perimeter area of the workpiece, and a contact face at an end of the second section for contacting a processing surface of the workpiece upon which electrochemical processing is to occur; and~~

a yieldable sealing ~~systemmember having a rim portion proximate the electrical contacts, the rim portion being adapted and configured to pressbevel~~ against the surface of the microelectronic workpiece as the microelectronic workpiece and the electrical contacts assembly are brought into engagement with one another in a manner that, ~~the rim portion formingforms~~ a seal against the processing surface of the microelectronic workpiece ~~toand thereby inhibits the entry of processing fluid from contacting the contact faces of the contactsthrough a barrier which is defined between said yieldable sealing member and the surface of the microelectronic workpiece.~~

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A contact assembly as claimed in claim 3 wherein said electrical contacts are ~~is~~ recessed with respect to the ~~rim portion of the yieldable~~

~~sealing system without a workpiece loaded in the contact assembly member, and said yieldable sealing member is adapted for deforming to enable the electrical contact to contact the surface of the microelectronic workpiece.~~

6. (Currently Amended) A contact assembly as claimed in claim 5 wherein ~~the rim portion of the yieldable sealing system member is adapted to splay outward when said yieldable sealing member deforms during contact with the surface of the~~ microelectronic workpiece.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)